

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 13-16, 18 and 19 are pending in the present application. Claims 23 and 24 have been canceled and claim 18 has been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claim 23 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Lazar et al.; claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Lazar et al. in view of Glitho; and claims 13-16, 18 and 19 were allowed.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter. Further, to place this application in condition for allowance, claims 23 and 24 have been canceled. Accordingly, the rejections noted in the Office Action are moot and the dependent claims are allowable. Claim 18 has also been amended to correct a minor cosmetic informality.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the

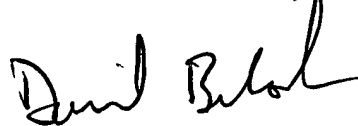
Serial No. 09/518,695
Reply to Office Action of December 2, 2004

Docket No. P-0053

application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **David A. Bilodeau**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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